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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 24, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH
The Vice President

THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
The Secretary of State

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of Defense

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY
The Director of Central Intelligence

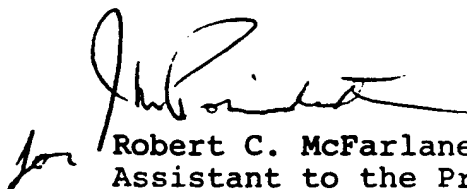
THE HONORABLE JEANE J. KIRKPATRICK
The United States Representative to
the United Nations

GENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: National Security Decision Directive on Our
Response to the Lebanon Crisis (S)

Attached is the Decision Directive pursuant to yesterday's
meetings of the National Security Planning Group. (U)

FOR THE PRESIDENT:



Robert C. McFarlane
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Attachment
NSDD 109

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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October 23, 1983

National Security
Decision Directive 109

Responding to the Lebanon Crisis (S)

Based upon the series of meetings completed yesterday and drawing upon the recommendations of the National Security Planning Group, the following decisions will provide policy guidance for our next steps in response to the Lebanon Crisis: (S)

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Responding to the Attacks on the USMNF Contingents

-- The Director of Central Intelligence will prepare an urgent summary of all source intelligence

25X1

-- Based upon the above assessments, the Department of Defense will submit options for overt military retaliation against identifiable sources of terrorist activity against our forces. (TS)

25X1

-- Based upon the above assessment, the Department of State will provide a policy review of the costs and benefits of such retaliation. (TS)

General Kelley's Mission to Beirut

-- General Kelley will lead a delegation to Beirut and undertake a comprehensive review of the security of our MNF contingent. (U)

-- General Kelley will submit his recommendations to me on possible modifications to our deployment in the Beirut area and on other measures we might take to enhance security. (S)

-- General Kelley will convey to the leadership of the Lebanese Armed Forces the urgent need to tighten security in the south

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Beirut area including closer collaboration with Lebanese security agencies and those confessional militias able to assist in controlling the movement of hostile terrorist factions. (S)

-- General Kelley will meet with delegations of other MNF countries that may travel to Beirut and the leadership of the MNF contingents to explore means and measures to reduce our collective exposure. (S)

High-Level MNF Meeting

-- The Secretary of State will communicate with French officials and suggest that we convene a high-level meeting of the MNF countries this week, preferably in Paris to permit a comprehensive review of our efforts in Lebanon and measures we may take to reduce the exposure of the MNF even as we continue to support the GOL. Should the French government agree to this proposal, the high-level delegation will be prepared to discuss broader security issues including developments in the Gulf War and U.S. policy toward that war. (S)

-- To this end, the interagency review of our Persian Gulf policy, in particular the questions of our position toward the Iraq-Iran War, should be completed early this week. (C)

Lebanon Negotiations

-- The choice of a Presidential envoy for the Middle East will be made within the next several days. Thereafter, the selection of supporting staff and travel arrangements should be completed forthwith with a view to permitting an early departure for the Middle East. (C)

-- Our ambassador in Beirut should schedule meetings with President Gemayel and the Lebanese government to accelerate the resolution of outstanding issues in the process of promoting national reconciliation. (C)

-- He should formally request that the government of Lebanon sever all diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. (S)

-- He should also undertake urgent consultations with the leaders of all the principal Lebanese factions to stress U.S. disquiet over repeated delays in arranging the national reconciliation conference. He should stress that while we are committed to the process of reconciliation, the U.S. government cannot tolerate interminable delays in the process. (S)

Ronald Reagan

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